Rules and Regulations for Agriculture and FPI

1769. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report, the Agriculture and Food Processing Industry had enormous potential, but its growth is constrained by a plethora of rules and regulations;

(b) whether there is an urgent need to review these laws and introduce reforms to enable the industry to feel secure and grow to the full extent of its potential; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Various reports have projected enormous potential of food processing industry. One of the many constraints faced by the industry is multiplicity of laws.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a modern and integrated food law and related regulations.

Growth of Agriculture Sector

1770. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recorded a high growth of agriculture in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, to what extent it was more in comparison to that in 2000-2001;

(c) whether it is likely to improve further in 2002-2003;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) what are the total foodgrains stocked at present in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at 1993-94 prices in agriculture and allied sector registered a growth of 5.7% in 2001-02 compared to the growth of (-) 0.2% in 2000-01.

(c) and (d) It is too early to make in assessment of the performance of the agriculture sector in 2002-03 because even kharif crop sowings have not been completed so far.

(e) The total stocks of foodgrains in the Central pool held by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies as on 1.7.2002 are 63.05 million tonnes.

Gene Banks for foodgrain plants

†1771. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the International Institute of Plant Genetics have jointly set up gene bank to save a redevelop the foodgrain plants of rare species facing extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also formulating any scheme for creating awareness among farmers of the country, to protect such plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to award special package or give encouragement to farmers, for redeveloping such type of species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up a gene bank at the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) to conserve plant genetic resources. The first storage module was installed in 1984, and the new gene bank was commissioned in 1996 which was set up with the assistance under the Indo-United State Agency for International Development (Indo-USAID) Plant Genetic Resources Project. The gene bank is used to conserve agriculture related plant genetic resources in cultivation or under threat.

(c) to (e) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources is organising grassroot level training programmes for general awareness about plant genetic resources management and conservation involving farmers in different phytogeographical regions of the country. Nine such grassroot

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.